

## Message Text

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UNCLAS COPENHAGEN 0465

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: SOPH DA

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION F-104 REPLACEMENT

1. INFORMATION (LEFTIST INTELLECTUAL) COMMENTS EDITOR-  
IALLY QUOTED DECISION ON PURCHASE IN WEAPONS DEAL OF  
CENTURY CONTINUES TO BE POSTPONED. IF DENMARK HAD BEEN  
ALONE IN DECIDING IN THIS HUGE TRANSACTION ABOUT 350  
FIGHTER PLANES ONE COULD HAVE PUT THE BLAME ON OUR OWN  
GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATIONS. DANISH PARLIAMENT MUST ARRIVE  
AT SOME AGREEMENT IN QUESTION WHICH IS SO CENTRAL AND  
ECONOMCALLY IMPORTANT BEFORE CONTRACT IS SIGNED.

2. BUT DENMARK IS NOT SOLE UNDERWRITER, AND IT IS NOT  
ONLY DENMARK WHICH BUYS 350 FIGHTERS OR 348, TO BE EXACT  
WE ARE TO GET 58, AND AFTER ALL THAT IS ALSO SIZEABLE  
NUMBER TO INTERNATIONAL AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY. BUT IT IS  
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BIG ORDER WHICH COUNTS AND IN SUCH SITUATION WORLD OF

BUYERS REALLY MEANS SOMETHING. DENMARK NORWAY HOLLAND AND BELGIUM HAVE GOOD CARDS IN HAND. SWEDEN, FRANCE AND US ARE READY AND EAGER.

3. DANISH PARLIAMENT MUST POSTPONE ITS DECISION UNTIL FOUR COUNTRIES HAVE DECIDED TYPE THEY GO FOR JOINTLY.

4. THIS IS NO WORRY FOR DANISH PARLIAMENT. IT IS NOT ONLY TECHNICAL QUESTION OF WHICH TYPE OF FIGHTER IS MOST DESIRABLE MILITARILY. IT IS ALSO QUESTION OF ECONOMY EMPLOYMENT AND (DANISH INTERNAL) DEFENSE COMPROMISE.

5. TECHNICAL ASPECTS SEEMS RATHER EVIDENT. PREFERRED TYPE OF MAJORITY OF FOUR COUNTRIES INVOLVED IS AMERICAN YF-16. BUT AS NORWEGIANS DEFENSE MINISTER SAID AFTER MONDAY'S DEFENSE MINISTERS MEETING IN BRUSSELS THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT PROBLEMS MAY ARISE WHICH TECHNICAL COMMITTEE CANNOT SOLVE.

6. THEREFORE SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN ASKED BY FOUR DEFENSE MINISTERS OF THREE AIRCRAFT INDUSTRIES: GENERAL DYNAMICS IS US , DASSAULT IN FRANCE, AND SAAB IN SWEDEN.

7. MINISTERS WOULD NOT DISCLOSE HOW THESE QUESTIONS WERE FORMULATED BUT ONE MAY GUESS THAT THEY CONCERNED PRICES, COMPENSATIONS AND ECONOMY IN GENERAL.

8. QUESTIONS ARE DIRECTED AT GOVERNMENTS BECAUSE THEY KNOW MORE ABOUT ECONOMIC CONDITIONS THAN INDUSTRIES THEM SELVES. INFLATION PLAYS BIG ROLE. WHICH GUARANTEES DO WE AND OUR THREE NATO PARTNERS GET THAT PRICES ARE NOT RAISED IN SEPT WITH RISING RATE OF INFLATION?

9. ALL THREE GOVERNMENTS WHICH ARE NOT BETTER OFF ECONOMICALLY THAN THEIR WESTERN COLLEAGUES, INCLUDING PURCHASING COUNTRIES, WILL GO ALONG WAY TO GET ORDER OF 11 BILLION DANISH KRONER.

10. CORRESPONDINGLY, PURCHASING COUNTRIES, CERTAINLY UNCLASSIFIED

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DENMARK, WILL GO ALONG WAY TO GET PARTIAL CONTRACTS AND SUB-CONTRACTS IN CONNECTION WITH PURCHASES. EMPLOYMENT IS UNDERSTANDABLY MAIN QUESTION

11. THEREFORE, CHAIRMAN OF (DANISH) LABOR UNIONS THOMAS NIELSEN TAKES CLEAR POSITION. HE FINDS THAT SAAB'S PLANE, VIGGEN IS BEST OFFER BECAUSE SWEDES WILL GIVE GREATEST COMPENSATIONS AND THUS GREATEST EMPLOYMENT.

12. THIS IS NOT NECESSARILY POSITION OF MILITARY. THEY MAY THINK FACTUALLY THAT OTHER TYPES ARE BETTER IF DENMARK'S ROLE IN NATO IS TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY. AND NEITHER IS IT NECESSARILY POSITION OF FOUR PARTIES IN (INTERNAL DANISH) DEFENSE AGREEMENT WHICH IS NOW RUNNING OUT, EVEN IF IT TECHNICALLY DOES NOT EXPIRE UNTIL 1977, BUT CAN ONLY BE RENOUNCED.

13. RADICALS HAVE ALREADY STATED THAT THEY DO NOT CONSIDER DEFENSE AGREEMENT BINDING AT THIS POINT AND THAT ONE MAY POSTPONE OR COMPLETELY CANCEL PURCHASE OF PLANES. NEW (DANISH) DEFENSE MINISTER SOCIAL DEMOCRAT ORLA MOLLER HAS EXPRESSED HIMSELF A LITTLE LESS CLEARLY, NEW MEETING AMONG FOUR DEFENSE MINISTERS WILL TAKE PLACE IN MARCH, AND AT THAT TIME DEBATE IN DENMARK CAN START. HE SAYS.

14. ACCORDING TO DANISH DEFENSE MINISTER DEBATE CAN NOT BE FINISHED BY END OF MARCH WHICH IS DEADLINE STIPULATED BY TWO EUROPEAN AIRCRAFT INDUSTRIES FOR THEIR OFFER WHILE AMERICANS ARE WILLING TO WAIT UNTIL END OF MAY.

15. ORLA MOLLER EVEN THINKS THAT IF DEFENSE AGREEMENT IS NOT PROLONGED ONE MAY "MAKE RESERVATIONS SO THAT WE MAY JOIN WITHOUT BEING PART OF AGREEMENT."

16. THIS DANISH COMPROMISE DREAM MAY WELL BE FULFILLED RIGHT NOW. IT IS TIME FOR BARGAINING. THE LONGER WE WAIT THE MORE WILL THE MANUFACTURERS CUT THEIR PRICES. THIS HAS BEEN CASE DURING EARLIER PURCHASES OF WEAPONS, LATEST WHEN DENMARK BOUGHT ARMORED CARS FOR ARMY.  
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17. BUT IT IS ALSO MATTER OF ECONOMY OF FOUR PURCHASING COUNTRIES AND THREE SELLING COUNTRIES, ORDER IS BIG ENOUGH TO HAVE IMPORTANCE TO EMPLOYMENT IN COUNTRIES CONCERNED.

18. MILITARY CONSIDERATIONS MEAN LESS, ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS COUNT MORE.

19. SO FAR MATTER HAS BEEN POSTPONED. MAYBE IT WILL BE POSTPONED UNTIL ONE HAS FOUND OUT WHETHER MILITARY EXPENDITURE IS WORTH ECONOMIC GAIN UNQUOTE.  
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